

# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

## **DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### **NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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P.O. Box 1148  
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#### **2013 Kotzebue News Release #31**

#### **KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENING**

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 3 hours from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Friday, August 16 in the Kotzebue District.

Catch during last night's 4-hour opening was 15,805 chum salmon by 44 permit holders. This was the best catch for one period in mid-August since 1995. This week has been the best harvest of the season with Kotzebue commercial salmon permit holders harvesting over 60,000 chum salmon. The commercial harvest to date is over 258,000 chum salmon and has exceeded the department prediction of a harvest of 225,000 to 250,000 chum salmon for 2013.

The record harvest in the 2000s was in 2010 when 270,343 chum salmon were harvested and this year's harvest should easily exceed that year.

Kobuk River test fish catch index ranks second best in the 21-year project history, but at this time, projections show this year's catch index will surpass the record test fish catch of 1996.

Continuing with short duration commercial fishing periods should not jeopardize subsistence opportunity or escapement.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery you can call the Kotzebue office at 442-3420, or the Commercial Fisheries office in Nome at 1-800-560-2271 or the buyer at 442-4192.